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The Congo Situation (Information as of 0300 EDT)

Colonel Mobutu has moved to consolidate control in the Leopoldville area. On 16 September, troops loyal to him prevented a meeting--called by President Kasavubu--of the Congolese National Assembly. Mobutu troops also raided Lumumba's residence and arrested about twenty of the premier's staff, although Lumumba himself remained unmolested. Censorship reportedly has been imposed at the Leopoldville telegraph office. This activity is in line with Mobutu's announced policy of "neutralizing" contentious political forces.

Mobutu also repeated his demand that Communist bloc diplomats leave the Congo by noon on 17 September. According to press sources, on 16 September personnel of the Soviet and Czech embassies began preparations to depart Leopoldville. A TASS newsman was quoted by a western journalist as saying, "We are all leaving tomorrow."

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The latest attempt by the central government to invade Katanga apparently has failed, and at least part of the Congolese invading force has retired across the border into Kivu province. The Tshombé government continues to be troubled, however, by serious disorders among Baluba tribesmen in northern Katanga. Tshombé's troops reportedly have killed fifteen persons in suppressing disturbances at Manono in the north central part of the province, and another 20 tribesmen have been killed at Luena, about 60 miles southeast of Kamina.

At the Security Council meeting on 16 September, Tunisia and Ceylon introduced a moderate resolution designed to confirm the

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present UN position without specifically condemning the USSR's activities. This resolution was vetoed by the USSR, supported by Poland with France abstaining. The US then called for an emergency session of the General Assembly which was summoned, over a negative Soviet vote, for 2000 EDT 17 September. Secretary General Hammarskjold is confident that the African states will support him in the Assembly, and he believes he can force the USSR into the unpopular position of defending unilateral military support of the Congo in defiance of the UN.

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